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Friendship right ...

The meeting between the two leaders took place against the backdrop of Washington's tariff tussle that has impacted almost all leading economies across the world.

Modi said, “India is committed to taking forward its ties with China based on mutual trust, respect and sensitivity as co-operation between the two countries is linked to the welfare of 2.8 billion people.”

In his televised opening remarks at the meeting, Modi also noted that the disengagement of troops by the two sides on the border created an atmosphere of peace and stability.

"Our cooperation is linked to the interests of 2.8 billion people of our two countries. This will also pave the way for the welfare of all humanity," Modi said.

"We are committed to advancing our relations based on mutual trust, respect, and sensitivity," he said.

President Xi said, “It is the ‘right choice’ for the two countries to be ‘friends’ and we should not let the border dispute define their relations. As long as the two countries stick to this overarching direction, China-India relations can sustain steady and long-term growth.”

Xi told Modi that the two Asian neighbours should work together to ensure peace and tranquility in their border regions, and should not let the border issue define the overall China-India relations.

India and China are cooperation partners, not rivals, and the two countries are each other's development opportunities rather than threats, Xi said.

Noting that this year marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of China-India diplomatic relations, Xi said the two countries need to view and handle bilateral ties from a strategic and long-term perspective to ensure their sustained, sound and steady development.

Xi said China and India should become neighbours on good terms and partners helping each other succeed. A "cooperative pas de deux (dance) of the dragon and the elephant" should be the right choice for the two countries, he said.

In an apparent dig at US President Donald Trump's unilateral policies, Xi also said both countries should uphold multilateralism.

Xi called on New Delhi and Beijing to strengthen strategic communication to deepen mutual trust, expand exchanges and win-win cooperation, heed each other's concerns to seek harmonious coexistence, and enhance multilateral collaboration to safeguard common interests.

We both shoulder the historical responsibility of improving the well-being of our two peoples, promoting the solidarity and rejuvenation of developing countries, and propelling the progress of human society, Xi said.

It is learnt that the overall focus of the Modi-Xi talks was to carry forward the process to normalise the bilateral ties that came under severe strain following the eastern Ladakh border standoff.

Modi landed here last evening from Japan in the second leg of his two-nation trip. It is the Indian prime minister's first trip to China after the border row that began in May 2020.

In his remarks, Modi also listed measures initiated between the two sides since his meeting with Xi in October last year.

"Last year in Kazan, we had very productive discussions, which gave a positive direction to our relations."

"After the disengagement at the border, an atmosphere of peace and stability is now in place. Our Special Representatives have also reached an agreement on border management," Modi said.

"The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra has resumed. Direct flights are also being resumed between the two countries," he added.

The prime minister held talks with the Chinese president in October last year in Russia's Kazan, which took place days after India and China reached an understanding to end the standoff in eastern Ladakh.

India and China have a framework called the Special Representatives on the boundary question to address issues relating to the border.

The prime minister also congratulated Xi on China's successful presidency of the SCO.

"I congratulate China on its successful presidency of the SCO. Once again, we extend heartfelt gratitude for the invitation to visit China and for our meeting today," Modi said.

The specific outcomes of the Modi-Xi talks are not yet known.

Ahead of his trip to Tianjin, Modi said it is important for India and China to work together to bring stability to the world economic order.

In an interview with Japan's The Yomiuri Shimbun, Modi said stable, predictable, and amicable bilateral relations between India and China can have a positive impact on regional and global peace and prosperity.

"Given the current volatility in world economy, it is also important for India and China, as two major economies, to work together to bring stability to the world economic order," Modi said in the interview published on Friday.

Modi's trip to China comes less than a fortnight after Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi visited India.

Following Wang's wide-ranging talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, the two sides unveiled a series of measures for a "stable, cooperative and forward-looking" relationship.

The measures included joint maintenance of peace along the contested frontier, reopening border trade and resuming direct flight services at the earliest.

In the last few months, both sides have initiated a series of measures to reset their ties that came under severe strain following the deadly clashes between Indian and Chinese troops in Galwan Valley in June 2020.

"We must also step up our historic responsibility to uphold multilateralism, work together to bring about a multipolar world and more democracy in international relations and to make our due contributions to peace and prosperity in Asia and around the world," President Xi said.

Xi also told Modi that the world is currently going through once-in-a-century transformations.

The international situation is both fluid and chaotic. China and India are two ancient civilisations in the east, we are the world's two most populous countries, and we are also the oldest

members of the Global South, he said.

This was the first meeting of the two leaders in about ten months and it assumed significance in view of a sudden downturn in India-US ties triggered by Washington's policies on trade and tariffs.

Army-Civil ...

He said collaboration across sectors is essential to ensure Ladakh's long-term stability and prosperity.

The General Officer Commanding of the Trishul Division highlighted the Army's contribution to nation-building under Operation Sadbhavna. He pointed to efforts in education, healthcare, skill development and infrastructure that have directly improved the quality of life in remote communities while reinforcing national security.

An open house session invited candid exchanges among participants and reinforced the value of military-civil collaboration in overcoming Ladakh's developmental challenges.

The capsule, held from August 26 to 30, featured discussions on education, health, rural development, revenue, tourism, public administration and the Army's role in community empowerment. The Fire and Fury Corps honoured speakers and panelists at the closing ceremony, reaffirming a commitment to sustained partnership between the Army, civil administration and academia.

The Military-Civil Fusion Capsule 2025 concluded with a clear message that Ladakh's future lies in unity of purpose where security, sustainable growth and community resilience move forward together.

Earlier, Chief Secretary Dr Pawan Kotwal gave a detailed presentation on Vibrant Village Programme Phases I & II, stressing its role in reversing migration in Eastern Ladakh by creating livelihood opportunities through tourism, cultural heritage promotion, skill development and entrepreneurship.

He also underlined the need to improve living conditions in border areas to encourage villagers to stay, and called for an institutionalised mechanism for regular Military-Civil Administration meetings to address issues of land, law and order.

GOC, 3 Infantry Division, Maj Gen Arindham Saha, in his presentation, highlighted the role of the Indian Army in nation-building in Ladakh.

Similarly, Brigadier Sachin Gehlawat, Commander 3 Army Brigade, gave an update on the Military Civil Fusion Capsule seminar aimed at addressing Army-Civil Administration issues and enhancing border infrastructure, communication, and tourism for Ladakh's economic growth.

He outlined key outcomes, including Army's role in promoting tourism, dual use of infrastructure, education development, welfare of veterans, community upliftment, forward area development, benefits under Operation Sadbhavana, and the proposal for its annual conduct.

GOC 14 Corps, Lt Gen Hitesh Ballala, in his vote of thanks, highlighted initiatives taken by the Army to address issues such as stray dogs and sustenance of military personnel.

He stressed the importance of strengthening Military-Civil Administration cooperation for building a resilient future for Ladakh and the nation.

Rash driving ...

injured. The Army, in coordination with police personnel, carried out a swift rescue operation and managed to pull out the victims from the accident site. The injured were immediately shifted to Sub District Hospital Drass for urgent medical attention. All the victims have been confirmed as non-locals.

Preliminary investigation suggests rash driving led to the accident. The driver, identified as Rahul Kumar, has been booked under FIR No. 58/2025 registered at the concerned police station. Legal proceedings have been initiated under Sections 281 and 225(a) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, and further investigation is underway to ascertain the exact circumstances that resulted in this fatal crash.

The incident has once again highlighted the alarming rise in road accidents in the mountainous terrain, raising concerns over reckless driving practices on key stretches of the strategic highway.

Health, education, ...

Pneumatic Tube System (PTS) at SNM Hospital, Leh and District Hospital, Kargil. The advanced system, widely used in modern hospitals, allows rapid transport of lab samples, medicines, and critical documents across departments, ensuring faster and more efficient patient care.

He also stressed the need to establish model schools on the lines of Swami Vivekananda Vidya Mandir – one of the largest government schools in India – and encouraged exploring Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models to boost education and infrastructure growth in Ladakh.

On tourism, the Lt Governor underlined the importance of implementing the Ladakh Mountaineering Policy in letter and spirit to safeguard the lives of mountaineers during expeditions and treks in the high-altitude region.

“Strict enforcement of safety protocols will not only save lives but also enhance Ladakh's image as a responsible adventure tourism destination,” he said.

Earlier, Dr. Tashi Thinles, Director Health Services, gave a detailed presentation on upcoming projects including a new Medical College and Nursing College, a Cardiac Cath Lab and Sewage Treatment Plant at SNM Hospital, upgradation of District Hospital Kargil, procurement of a 3 Tesla MRI machine, and construction of health centres across Ladakh.

Administrative Secretary, Bhanu Prabha, presented updates on projects in School Education, Higher Education and Technical Education. Administrative Secretary, Sanjit Rodrigues, IAS, outlined the key initiatives of the Tourism Department, including the Bhimbat project, Droupadi Kund project, Penzi La development, Trans-Himalayan Cultural Centre at Leh, Sindhu Ghat Expansion, Chowkhang Vihara project, and restoration of Balti Bazar in Kargil. He also highlighted Ministry of Tourism-funded projects such as the Julley Leh Biodiversity Park, Hunderman Village Experience, Water Screen Projection Multimedia Show at Kargil, Sound and Light Show at Leh

Palace, and the promotion of Mushkoh Valley as a sustainable tourism hub.

Rodrigues further apprised about new policy frameworks – Ladakh Homestay Policy 2023, STP Incentive Policy 2024, and the Ladakh Mountaineering Policy 2024 – aimed at promoting responsible, community-driven and sustainable tourism across the region.

DM unveils ...

will feature both defensive and offensive elements to deal with any enemy threats.

The defence minister also announced that India has taken up the challenge of developing a powerful indigenous aero-engine, adding that preparations for this critical project are now almost complete and the work will soon be visible.

Singh, without naming the US, said many developed nations are resorting to protectionist measures, with situations of "trade war and tariff war becoming increasingly serious".

"India seeks no enemies but will not compromise its interests. The welfare of our people, farmers and small businesses is our top priority."

"The more pressure the world applies, the stronger India emerges," he said, in significant comments that came amid the strain in India-US ties over issues relating to trade and tariff.

At the same time, he asserted that India's policy of becoming self-reliant in defence is not protectionism.

"This is not protectionism. It is about sovereignty. When a nation of youth, energy, technology and possibilities moves towards self-reliance, the world pauses and takes note," he said at the NDTV Defence Summit.

"This is the strength that enables India to withstand global pressures and emerge stronger," he added.

The defence minister described the Sudarshan Chakra as a "game-changing" initiative for India's future security, and cited lessons from Operation Sindoor to emphasise the importance of air defence systems in modern warfare.

The defence minister mentioned that the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested an indigenous integrated air defence weapon system on August 23 that hit three targets simultaneously.

Although full implementation will take time, the defence ministry has already moved "decisively" forward in the direction of the proposed missile shield, he said.

Singh hailed Operation Sindoor as a shining example of India's growing indigenous defence capabilities.

"India's victory and Pakistan's defeat in Operation Sindoor may appear to be a story of a war of a few days, but behind it lies years of strategic preparation and defence preparedness," he said.

Singh underscored that India's forces, through years of hard work and reliance on indigenous equipment, executed the operation effectively and decisively.

The defence minister said the shifting geopolitics has also made it clear that external dependency in the field of defence is no longer an option.

"In the current situation, self-reliance is essential for both our economy and our security," he said.

"Today, the defence sector is not only the foundation of national security but has also become a pillar in strengthening our economy and securing its future," Singh said.

"It is not just about the safety of people, the protection of land, or the defence of borders, but it is also becoming a responsible sector for the protection and security of our entire economy," he said.

Highlighting India's transformation from importer to exporter in the defence sector, Singh said the defence exports have risen from under Rs 700 crore in 2014 to nearly Rs 24,000 crore in 2025.

"India is no longer just a buyer but an exporter. This success is not only due to public sector units but also the contribution of private industry, start-ups and entrepreneurs," he said.

On the economic role of defence, Singh underscored that the sector has become a pillar of growth.

"Domestic defence production has crossed Rs 1.5 lakh crore, with 25 per cent from the private sector. Defence is not mere expenditure, it is defence economics, a driver of jobs, innovation and industrial growth," he said.

Natural calamities...

our NDRF-SDRF personnel and other security forces worked day and night to save people. The soldiers also took the help of technology. Efforts were made to speed up relief work with the help of thermal cameras, live detectors, sniffer dogs and drone surveillance.

"During this, relief material was delivered by helicopters, and the injured were airlifted. Armed forces came forward to help in times of disaster. Local people, social workers, doctors, administration -- everyone made every possible effort in this hour of crisis. I heartily thank every such citizen who prioritised humanity in these difficult times," he said.

Modi noted that amid the devastation caused by floods and rains, Jammu and Kashmir has also achieved two very special achievements.

"Not many people noticed these. But you will be happy to know about those achievements. A record number of people gathered in a stadium in Pulwama. Pulwama's first day-night cricket match was played here. Earlier this was impossible, but now my country is changing," he said.

"The second event that caught attention was the country's first 'Khelo India Water Sports Festival' and that too held at Dal Lake in Srinagar. Truly, what a special place to host a festival like this."

Modi said more than 800 athletes from across India participated in it. "Women athletes were not far behind; their participation was nearly equal to that of men. I would like to congratulate all the participants," the prime minister added.

KPs reopen ...

Kashmir valley. "We can say this is a branch of the Sharda Mata temple in Pakistan. We have been wanting to reopen this temple for a long time now. The local Muslims also wanted it. They used

to tell us regularly to come and re-establish the temple," the president of Sharda Asthapna Community, Budgam, Sunil Kumar Bhat, said.

He said the Pandit community has reopened the temple after 35 years.

"We hope that this (gathering) will be an annual affair and we pray to Mata Rani that the community members return to Kashmir sooner," he said.

Bhat said a few Kashmiri Pandits, mostly working under the Prime Minister's Package, re-established the temple and have approached the district administration for the construction of a new one, as the old temple was in ruins.

"We are planning construction. We have established a Shivingl there that we recovered while cleaning and restoring this place," he said.

The reopening ceremony reflected the valley's famed composite culture as local Muslims joined the celebrations. "Without the local community, this would not have been possible," Bhat said, adding that their support has been tremendous.

"When we came here, we were only four people. Today, the whole village is with us. This shows the support of the local community," he said.

An elderly local Muslim said the Pandit community is more than welcome to return to their roots.

"These people are residents of this village. We used to live and eat together before the situation worsened. If they need anything, we are there to support them," he said.

He said the Kashmir valley is the 'janambhoomi' of the Pandits and members from both the communities grew up together.

"How can we forget the times we spent together? We are happy that they have come here and offered prayers. This is a matter of their faith," he said.

LoP Tsering ...

strikes and yatras. “He is behaving like a king; the chair has gone to his head,” Namgail thundered, ridiculing Gyalson's claim that he could decide the LoP's fate. “Who are you to decide? My colleagues chose me. The CEC has no authority over opposition unity.”

Rejecting suggestions that he aspired to be CEC, Namgail invoked his performance in the MP elections, stressing that without financial muscle he had polled over 10,000 votes against a resource-rich BJP. “If you call me useless, I can only laugh,” he said. He also lambasted Gyalson for resorting to “street-level language” unbecoming of his position. “Education is not just about reading and writing; it is about wisdom and etiquette. Where did you learn such abusive words? This is not leadership.”

Congress tore into Gyalson's handling of pressing issues, from the HAIL land allotment and its cancellation, to the lapse of development funds, delays in setting up a medical college, and the lack of a coherent policy on land protection. It accused him of deliberately derailing the Sixth Schedule safeguards movement, asking what action he had taken with only three months left in office.

The opposition also questioned the deployment of CRPF, alleging that it was being misused to intimidate locals and tourists rather than ensure law and order. Phyang Councillor Tundup Nurbu mocked Gyalson's jibe, saying: “Dogs are the most faithful animals, and yes, we are faithful to Ladakh. But where are the answers on lapseable budgets, the medical college, HAIL land, and land protection?”

Congress further charged the CEC with stoking division instead of addressing people's concerns, recalling that councillors were barred from Republic Day under his watch. It warned him against mixing religion with politics, asserting that the true certificate of leadership was issued by the people in the MP elections.

The Congress reiterated that while it practices constructive criticism, it would not tolerate abuse. “The CEC must publicly apologise for calling opposition councillors ‘dogs’ and uphold the dignity of the council. His words are not an insult to us alone but to Ladakh's democratic ethos,” Namgail stated.

Exams deferred...

The order issued by the Director Academics stated that the examinations scheduled for Monday stand deferred until further notice. The Board has clarified that fresh dates for the postponed papers will be notified separately for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

The communication has also been circulated to senior officers of the Government School Education Department, the Director School Education Kashmir, Jammu and Ladakh, District Development Commissioners, law enforcement authorities, and media organisations to ensure wide dissemination.

All administrative and academic stakeholders have been directed to take note of the revised schedule and await further instructions.

The postponement comes in the wake of the prevailing weather situation, which has impacted transportation and routine functioning, thereby making the conduct of examinations untenable on the scheduled date.

CS, CEC ...

With this launch, Ladakh now has access to a state-of-the-art skin healthcare facility that promises not just beauty enhancement, but scientifically guided skin health solutions suited to the region's unique needs.